

23. (New) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a search utility for determining risk measures for the investment strategies and for selecting one or more of the investment strategies based on a risk measure selected by the investor.

24. (New) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
means for storing a personal portfolio for the investor that specifies a management weight corresponding to the at least one of the investment strategies;
means for applying the management weight to the at least one of the investment strategies to produce one or more weighted trade recommendations; and
means for submitting the weighted trade recommendations, sequence of customized trade recommendations and the investor trade recommendations to a separate investor brokerage account for execution.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

This response cancels claims 1-10 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claims 11, 15 and 19, and adds claims 21-24. After entry of the amendment, claims 11-17 and 19-24 remain pending. No new subject matter has been added to the application.

Independent claims 11, 15, and 21 each recite features that are not taught or suggested by U.S. Patent No. 6,018,722 ("Ray"). For example, claims 11, 15 and 21 recite the function of receiving investment strategies from plural investment advisors and customized trade recommendations derived from the strategies. In addition, claim 15 recites a search utility, and claims 21 and 24 recite management weights being applied to

strategies. These claimed features are entirely absent from the teachings of Ray. Thus, claims 11, 15 and 21, as well as claims 12-14, 16-17, 19-20 and 22-24 by their respective dependency, are patentable over Ray.

Each of the pending claims in this application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application and feels that a telephone conference would be helpful to resolve any issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the 312-595-1169.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-3038/068090002NPUS00.

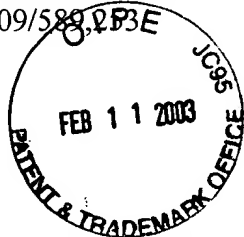
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Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE BY AMENDMENT

11. (Amended) A system for providing investment advice to investors over a computer network, comprising:

means for receiving [providing] a plurality of [advisor strategies for financial] investment strategies from a plurality of investment advisors, each of the investment strategies including a plurality of trade recommendations;

[means for subscribing to at least one of the advisor strategies;]

[means for selectively customizing the at least one of the advisor strategies into an investor portfolio; and]

[means for generating a plurality of trade recommendations based on the investor portfolio.]

means for allowing an investor to subscribe to at least one of the investment strategies;

means for allowing the investor to accept, reject, or modify each of the trade recommendations of the at least one investment strategy to produce a sequence of customized trade recommendations;

means for permitting the investor to enter one or more investor trade recommendations based on an investor-defined strategy; and

means for submitting the sequence of customized trade recommendations and the investor trade recommendations to a separate investor brokerage account for execution.

15. (Amended) A method of providing investment advice to [at least one] an investor, comprising:

[providing at least one advisor] receiving a plurality of investment strategies from a plurality of investment advisors [strategy accessible by way of] over a computer network;

assigning a risk/return measure to each of the investment strategies;

using a strategy client database to maintain a subscription to [the at least one advisor strategy] one or more of the investment strategies for the [at least one] investor;
providing a search utility that permits the investor to select at least one of the subscribed investment strategies based on a risk measure; and
maintaining a portfolio for the [at least one] investor, the portfolio defining a plurality of customized trade recommendations [and being] based on the selected and subscribed to investment [at least one advisor strategy] strategies.

19. (Amended) The method of claim [18] 15, further comprising:
updating the [strategy] trade recommendations at predetermined intervals.